

TRUMCUG

Trumbull Computer User's Group

Since 1984

Supporting All Personal Computer

February 1997
Volume 4 Issue 6

Send mail to:

P.O. Box 8632
Warren, Ohio 44484

Meeting Notice: Third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday February 19, 1997 at the Warren branch of the Cortland Bank, on Elm road, North of McDonald's and across from Sims Buick.

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Future meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays

March 19, April 16, and May 21.

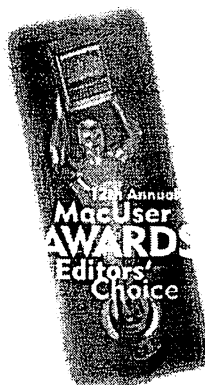
February Meeting

For February, we will be meeting at Kristina's house for a demo. She is going to be showing us her computer and her new printer and zip drive. We will meet at the bank on Elm Rd. as usual on Wednesday, February 19, between 7:00-7:15 p.m. From there we will drive to Kristina's house in Howland. I'm sure we will all look forward to seeing the demo. Thanks, Kristina, for doing the February demo.

Eddy Special Awards 1996

MacUser is pleased to announce the winners of the 1996 Eddy Special Awards in the following categories:

- Hardware Product of the Year Apple Network Server 700 by Apple Computer
- Software Product of the Year Adobe PageMill 2.0 by Adobe Systems
- John J. Anderson Distinguished Achievement Award Steve Capps
- Derek Van Alstyne Rising Star Award Aaron Giles
- Breakthrough Technology of the Year *BeOS* by *Be, Inc.*



Be's Hardware Plans

Dear Be Developers,

We've taken the decision to focus purely on software development and to cease production of the BeBox. We want to explain what led to this decision and what this implies for you, our developers.

Be's goal is to make the BeOS the premier platform for digital content design. To that end, the BeOS was designed to take advantage of high-performance hardware and to take particular advantage of multiprocessor hardware. Until recently, low-cost MP machines have been scarce, and they were scarcer still in 1990 when the original BeBox was conceived. The BeBox, in its various forms and revisions, was designed to prove the

point that you can build an MP personal computer, and we'd like to think that it succeeded in doing just that.

In 1996, we ported the BeOS to the PowerMac architecture, and began to see the advantages of running our OS on widely-available, mass-market hardware. With the advent of MP PowerMacs from [<http://www.apple.com>] Apple, [<http://www.powercc.com>] Power Computing, [<http://www.daystar.com>] DayStar, and others yet to come, we've been able to run the BeOS on some pretty impressive hardware, ranging from very low-cost 603-family desktops through to hulking testosterone devices like the quad 200MHz 604e DayStar machine.

It's very hard, actually impossible, for a small 50-person company like Be to keep up with the hardware engineering resources of the entire PowerMac market. At Macworld in San Francisco last month, it became very clear that almost all the developer and future user interest was in the BeOS for PowerMac. Sure, if we could build a quad 604 BeBox and ship it this quarter for \$3,000, or even \$5,000, we'd have a winner on our hands. But, our investigations revealed that products like this take a lot of time and money to develop, and cost a lot to build, especially in low volumes.

In addition, a very large part of our, and our developers', target market of digital content designers uses PowerMacs and applications running on the MacOS. By offering the BeOS on PowerMacs, we allow them to run on their existing hardware (with greater performance, functionality and stability) and to run their existing MacOS apps, either by dual-booting or by using VirtualMac technology.

Finally, we faced an ethical dilemma: as we license hardware vendors to bundle the BeOS, we have a potential conflict of interest. How do we optimize between our hardware sales and making the BeOS available on other manufacturers' hardware? This conflict of interest faces any company that sells an OS on its own hardware while licensing it to other hardware manufacturers. We've chosen to avoid the conflict in the simplest way possible.

So, what does this mean for current BeBox owners?

We will honor the warranties on all the BeBoxes that we've sold, of course. We'll make best efforts to keep spares available for as long as possible after the last warranty has expired. Remember, most of the content of a BeBox is off-the-shelf PC hardware and should be maintainable for many years. Releases of the BeOS planned for the next 3 years (changed 1/31/97 -- see below) will support the BeBox and we'll make best efforts to continue support beyond that.

And what does this mean for all Be developers?

Most of the people using the BeOS today are already using it on PowerMacs. Given the availability of exciting low-cost UP and MP PowerMacs from Power Computing, Apple and others, the cost of entry to developing for the BeOS is lower than ever. However, in the spirit of lowering this cost even further, we're preparing some special developer packages that we'll announce shortly.

The BeBox's unique i/o capabilities are becoming less unique as media-rich i/o becomes more accessible on mass-market machines. We're already working on video and audio drivers for emerging and existing PowerMac hardware.

However well-reasoned and reasonable this decision is, we know that all such transitions can cause pain and inconvenience. As a company and a team that knows in its bones how important it is to work closely and well with our developers for our mutual success, we want to ensure that we do our best to make this transition as smooth as possible for our BeBox owners. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Alex Osadzinski, for the Be team.

Dear Be Developers,

I made a mistake. We've been made aware (thank you) that promising to support the BeBox with future releases of the BeOS for only 12 months with "best efforts" after that isn't sufficient.

There is an easy way to redress this mistake: to strengthen our commitment to future support.

Current "Rev 6" 66MHz BeBoxes and 133MHz BeBoxes will be supported by releases of the BeOS

for at least the next three years, ie at least through the end of 1999.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to correct this situation.

JLG

BE® PROVIDES A "FIRST LOOK" AT BeOS APPLICATIONS AT MACWORLD

**New applications run the gamut in
demonstrations at the expo**

MACWORLD EXPO, SAN FRANCISCO, Calif (January 7, 1997) -- At Macworld Expo, taking place this week in San Francisco, Be, Inc. is providing a first look at some of the applications being developed for the Be Operating System (BeOS(tm)) These demonstrations include a wide range of applications, from word processors to development tools, and from multimedia and 3D to applications that control sound effects for theaters and even entire theme parks.

"Macworld provides an excellent venue at which our developers can provide customers with an early look at their products," said Jean-Louis Gassée, president and CEO of Be, Inc. "We're happy to help provide them with this opportunity because, after all, they are the real stars of the BeOS show."

The company expects more applications to be announced between now and the time when the BeOS public release ships in the first quarter. Most developers are awaiting the public release, which will be the first to ensure forward compatibility, before shipping new software.

"These early products fall within the categories in which we expect the BeOS to excel -- applications used by the 'bit-flingers' and the digital designers of the content the rest of us use." said Mark Gonzales, director of marketing at Be, Inc. "Even Lorientne's word processor goes beyond what most of us would consider as 'standard' today."

In a related announcement this week, Be is demonstrating for the first time a "virtual Macintosh" running within the native BeOS environ-

ment. This technology will allow users to continue using many of the System 7.x MacOS applications they use of their PowerPC systems today, and will provide software developers with a bridge for their customers as they bring BeOS native applications to market.

Some of the software that is being demonstrated at Macworld Expo include:

Reggae, [<http://www.lorientne.com>] Lorientne Software Reggae is new word processor with a frames-based approach. Supporting a wide range of features, Reggae includes the ability drop objects into text and have the entire document reflow around the object interactively, even while dragging the object around on the page. Screen-to-paper consistency is maintained during all operations.

LRDraw, Lorientne Software Taking an approach similar to Reggae, LRDraw is a new vector-based drawing program for the BeOS. Lorientne plans to combine its word processor, LRDraw, and a pixel-based drawing program also under development into a suite of tools for everyday productivity use.

Charlotte Web Server, [<http://www.purity.com>] Purity Software Charlotte is the first full-featured web server for the BeOS. The server is easy to set up and maintain, and offers features such as multiple server support, logging and monitoring, local and remote administration, and CGI support.

Studio A, [<http://www.adamation.com>] Adamation Studio A is a presentation development tool that simplifies the creation and scripting of true multimedia presentations. Through an easy to use interface, designers can build powerful interactive presentations utilizing sounds, music, still images, graphics, text, motion video and more.

dynaVu, [<http://www.dynavu.com>] dynaVu, Inc./Adamation Taking user interfaces into the next decade, dynaVu's 3-D and context sensitive technology combines capabilities of a system browser and a web browser to provide an entirely new way to view the information stored on your disk, on CD or DVD, or on the Web. dynaVu may represent the future of graphical interfaces for personal computers.

CueMaster & CueStation, [<http://www.lcsaudio.com>] Level Control Systems CueMaster is the heart of an audio design system of unparalleled versatility and power. Able to handle scores of inputs and control as many as 128 separate speakers covering theaters, retail spaces or even entire parks, CueMaster allows audio designers to create unique sound effects that are difficult or impossible with analog systems. BeBoxes running CueMaster are already in use in Las Vegas, New York and Hollywood.

BeatBox, Locomotiv Allied Technologies BeatBox is a new audio editing and effects package that allows for the production of real-time effects on digital streams of music. Designed for anyone creating soundtracks for events, CDs or presentations -- from music events organizers to disc jockeys to CD designers. Locomotiv has plans to add video effects editing in future versions of BeatBox.

Lois, [<http://worldserver.oleane.com/mipsys>] MIPSYS A new approach for browsing the web, Lois allows for automatic indexing, bookmarks, and a tab-based interface allowing for visualization of multiple pages and sites. Lois also permits the downloading of an entire site to disk, to any numbers of levels the user selects.

AppSketcher, Lorient Software Called by one observer, "the modern Interface Builder for the BeOS", AppSketcher is a software development tool that allows the graphical creation of application user interfaces. AppSketcher automatically generates the C and C++ code needed, based on objects within the BeOS and upon developer created objects. The beta version of AppSketcher is available to download now, from Be's web site at [<http://www.be.com/>] <http://www.be.com>.

Package Builder, [<http://www.starcode.com>] StarCode Software Package Builder is a development tool that creates graphical installers for distributing BeOS compatible software. The product supports type and icon preservation, patching support, file destination definitions, logging, and a wealth of other features. StarCode is also working on software servers for distributing software via the Internet and for user registration management. The beta version of Package Builder is available for download from

<http://www.starcode.com>.

CodeWarrior for BeOS, [<http://www.metrowerks.com>] Metrowerks The leader in PowerPC software development systems, Metrowerks will be showing the latest CodeWarrior for BeOS features, and will be available to discuss their Java implementation for BeOS.

Perforce for BeOS, [<http://www.perforce.com>] Perforce Software Perforce is a development tool providing a full featured, high-performance software configuration management system. Built on a true client/server architecture that doesn't rely on network file access, Perforce works quickly from initial deployment through to active use and administration.

VirtualMac, [<http://www.fredlabs.com>] fredlabs, inc. Providing a key bridge for users and developers migrating from MacOS System 7.x systems, VirtualMac provides the ability to run System 7.x applications within the BeOS. Demonstrated for the first time at Macworld, VirtualMac will allow users to jump into the future with new BeOS applications, while maintaining access their older applications.

In addition to these applications, Be representatives will be demonstrating other applications under development during demonstrations of the BeOS itself. Information is also available at Be's web site at <http://www.be.com>.

An open letter to the Amiga Community

12/24/96

The past few years have not been kind to the Amiga Community. Since the demise of Commodore, the ownership and future of the Amiga has been continually uncertain. The only thing that has remained constant is the loyalty of Amiga users. It is with respect to this loyalty that we feel it necessary to let YOU know the current state of affairs and what QuikPak is doing to see that the Amiga has the successful future it so deserves.

Back when Amiga Technologies was owned by Escom, QuikPak was selected to manufacture the

complete A4000T and components for the A1200. During the collapse of Escom and the subsequent negotiations with VisCorp, QuikPak continued manufacturing and servicing Amiga Computers. Throughout this time of uncertainty, QuikPak continued to support the platform, placing ads in the North American publication Amazing Computing, forging alliances with Amiga developers and supporters, and developing new products of our own. Recently, at AmigaFest in Toronto, we unveiled two new computers and we have been shipping the 060 Accelerator for the A4000T. We believe this product development clearly demonstrates our commitment to the Amiga.

It now appears evident that negotiations between VisCorp and Amiga Technologies have reached a standstill. As a creditor of Amiga Technologies, QuikPak has a vested interest in seeing the future of the Amiga handled properly. To this end, QuikPak has placed an offer in front of the German liquidator for Amiga Technologies, and we are awaiting further information regarding this.

What does this mean to you, the end user? QuikPak believes that there is more to the Amiga than a simple set top box. We believe that the A4000 and its successors have a place in the market. We believe that a model along the lines of the A1200 also can play an important role in the future of the Amiga. We further believe that products currently under development at QuikPak can bring the Amiga back to the forefront in innovation. We believe that working closely with developers, other manufacturers, distributors, and dealers is necessary to make the Amiga a success. And, perhaps most importantly of all, we believe in listening to you, the person who has kept this platform alive.

We hope that the new year will allow us to bring you good news, that QuikPak will be successful in our negotiations with the German liquidator. We trust that the liquidator will move quickly, and justly, to see these events through. We encourage any and all input from the Amiga Community - let us know what you want to see. And, finally, we encourage those responsible for handling the Amiga Technologies' assets to be as

open as we at QuikPak are striving to be.

Sincerely,
Dave Ziembicki C.E.O QuikPak Corporation

The TRUMCUG Web Page

The new web page now has more graphics and now includes some hotlinks. Check it out at:

<http://cc.ysu.edu/~s0176111/trumcug.html>

or

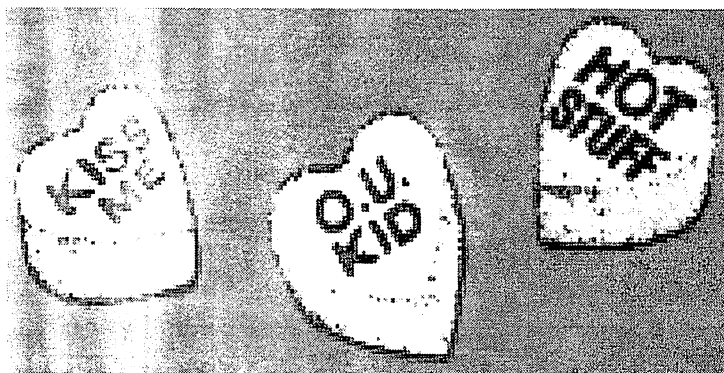
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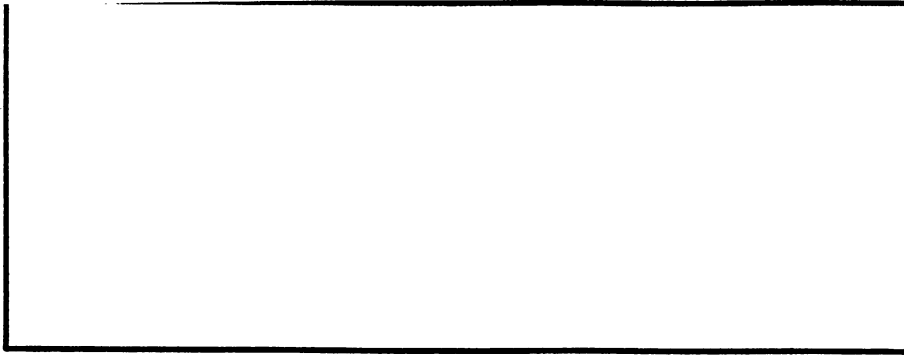
The Guru is produced on an 50 Mhz Amiga 1200 running FinalWriter 4.02

Many thanks to Jay Shonk for laser printing of the newsletter (Postscript at 600 dpi)

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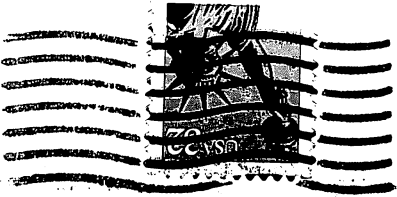


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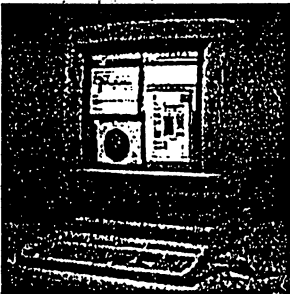


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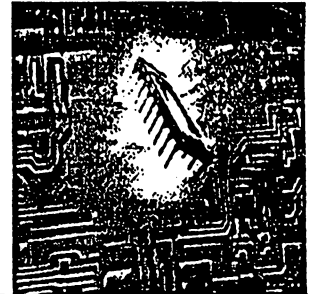
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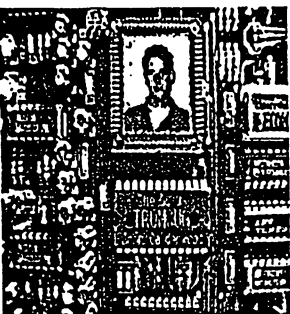
TRUMCUG

Trumbull Computer User's Group

Computer meeting on the
3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM
(except July and August)



Warren branch
Cortland Bank
Elm Road-Warren, Ohio



TRUMCUG Dues Notice

The 4 digit expiration number that is listed below your name on your mailing sticker is the year/month that your dues are paid through. Those receiving free trial copies will have "NM" (non member) and the date of their last free copy below their name in the expiration area. Those receiving a complimentary copy will have nothing in the expiration area.

